



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, March 5, 2012**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (12-1066)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Roll Call

Present: Chair Curry, Vice Chair Kang, Vice Chair Friedman,  
Commissioner Biondi, Commissioner Franzen, Commissioner  
Kleinberg, Commissioner McClaney, Commissioner Rudnick,  
Commissioner Sorkin and Commissioner Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Berger, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Olivas  
and Commissioner Williams

Call to Order

Call to order. (12-1009)

**The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:07 a.m.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Introduction of March 5, 2012, meeting attendees. (12-1010)

**Self-introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the agenda of March 5, 2012. (12-1011)

**On motion of Commissioner Biondi, seconded by Vice Chair Kang, this item was approved.**

3. Approval of the minutes of February 6, 2012.

Commissioner Kleinberg made a motion that the minutes of February 6, 2012 be approved with the following changes:

**Page 5 (Bullet 1)**

Although the **capacity number** of youth entering St Anne's has declined in the past few years, there has been a dramatic increase of youth entering the facility with mental health issues, behavioral problems, and a history of having been placed multiple times.

**Page 5 (Bullet 3)**

Lack of resources and aftercare is not the major issue. The issue is that foster youth that is **dealt with in care** are very troubled and not able to control their behavior causing major problems for caretakers.

**Page 6, (Bullets 3 and 4)**

The Workgroup is in the process of gathering information from various sources to better understand the **youth 0-3** population and the minors in the system who are parenting a child (~~parent and child in the system~~). Some of the areas that are currently being looked at are:

Early brain development **for young children 0-3.**

**The** lack of executive management skills may be causing parents **for parents** which results in the inability to multi-task. Oftentimes parents tend to abandon one obligation for another because they are not able to handle multiple obligations. (12-1025)

**Therefore, on motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Kang, this item was approved as amended.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**II. REPORT**

4. Chair's Report by Patricia Curry, Chair, for March 5, 2012. (12-1027)

**Chair Curry presented a verbal report on the following:**

- **The Faith-Based Workgroup, headed by Vice Chair Kang, has a meeting scheduled this afternoon (March 5, 2012) in Conference Room B-22 at 12:30 p.m.**
- **The next Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Children's Workgroup headed by Vice Chair Berger, will be held on March 12, 2012 in Conference Room B-22 at 12:30 p.m.**

- **The 8th Annual California Conference on Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss (Restoring Joy to Children and Families) will be held on March 22, 2012. Four Commissioners are attending. The Chair thanked Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS) for sponsoring Commissions members' attendance to the conference.**

**After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

### **III. PRESENTATIONS**

5. **Report on the new Health Care Reform and its impact on funding of mental health services for foster youth. (Carried over from the meeting of December 5, 2011.)**

- **Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health (11-5267)**

**Director, Dr. Southard, Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported on the new Health Care Reform and its impact on funding of Mental Health services for foster youth. He further added the following:**

- **The County is the National Leader for creating a model for integrating health care, mental health care, and a substance abuse service, in preparation for the health reform in 2014.**
- **Since the implementation of the Low Income Health Plan (LIHP) under the 1115 Waiver (Waiver) "Bridge to Health Reform" of the Health Care Reform Act, ten (10) States have expanded the LIHP which is part the Health Care Reform. Medi-cal program changes will help California transition health care reforms that will take effect in January 2014.**
- **The implementation of the LIHP in California is based on the need of each County. The minimum requirement for the Waiver was established by the Federal Government. The guidelines for the Waiver that were set by the Federal Government include two mandatory components which are Health Care and Mental Health Care at certain levels; a substance abuse benefit was made optional for each county.**
- **Counties in California, including Los Angeles County, have chosen the 133% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) which means that through the Waiver eligible adults, ages 19-64 years of age (without a child) within the 133% FLP will be eligible to enroll in the LIHP coverage.**

- **Mental Health Services have become a mandated component of the LIHP that will be available to all individuals enrolled in the Healthy Way LA (HWLA) that meet the mental health necessity criteria.**
- **The County goal is to sign up individuals for mental health care benefits now to enable the reform transition in January 2014. An individual can sign up in number of different ways. They can sign up through DMH clinic services, federally qualified health providers (HWLA Program), or through DMH clinic services.**
- **The LIHP will provide the traditional services provided by Medicaid, often referred to as the Rehab Option. Since the Rehab Option provides the same traditional Medicaid benefits, the Federal government will share 50% of the cost. LA County savings under this program will be used to serve another population needing Mental Health Services.**
- **Mental Health Service Delivery under LIHP were divided into three following Level of Service Tiers:**
  - **Tier I: Designed for clients with serious mental illness, such as Schizophrenia**
  - **Tier II: Designed for individuals with a mental disorder, but whose mental illness is not considered a disability.**
  - **Tier III: Designed for individuals who receive care from primary care physician and desire medication only.**
- **LA County believes that it does not need the Tier II level of services established for LHIP, and therefore, developed the Mental Health Integration Program MHIP Model created by the University of Washington. Through the MHIP model, DMH has: 1) stationed clinicians at six of the DHS compelled centers; 2) funded Federally Qualified Health Centers/Clinics to provide MHIP services which are additional services to the array of services that they provide; and 3) created partnerships between community agencies and DMH to disperse the agencies' staff throughout different DMH clinics. The MHIP program began in July 2011 and has proven many successes.**
- **The Waiver will not impact foster youth directly; however, will impact their parents and family members with whom they will reunite at some point in time. Current enrollees under the Waiver are adults who currently do not have custody of children, but with a potential that they may have.**

- One of the ways the County wants to use the HwLA Program is to enroll all individuals such as those prisoners being released under AB 109 “Early Prisoner Release Program.” The County hopes to enroll all individuals being affected by AB 109 so that they are in a position to transition onto society after their release.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Southard stated that the Board of Supervisor's agenda, [\(Board Item No. 24 of 3/6/12\)](#) is a small component to the MHIP model.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

**6. Probation Department Update**

- Jerry Powers, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department (12-1046)  
**Commissioner Biondi provided a brief introduction of Jerry Powers.**

**Mr. Powers reported the following:**

- The Board of Supervisors (Board) recently provided their support to move forward with the building of the new juvenile camp using State funding paired with County resources [\(Board Item No. 22 of 2/14/12\)](#). The project will entail demolishing and rebuilding Camp Vernon Kilpatrick. The new facility will be designed to support treatment and education and built with a residential-type setting. The projected building start date is November or December of 2012.
- The Probation Department (Probation) is working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to move the provisions of a settlement agreement into a monitoring status. The major issues the Department is facing are programming and rehabilitation of the youth in Probation facilities. The Department is working towards implementing a model that provides resources to youth in facilities that are most in need of substance abuse counseling, anger management, general behavioral modification and delinquency reduction programs. The goal is to implement these programs in all of the Probation camps and reduce the number of juvenile population in the camps to become compliant with the DOJ. The first step towards this goal is to provide the courts alternatives to juvenile placement in camps. Probation is currently working on a pilot program to reduce the population, that involves moving half of the camp's youth and staff into a camp facility that had been closed.

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A camp that is less crowded would create a setting more conducive to a positive environment.

- Probation is also working closely with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) on the Educational Reform Initiative. The plan is to steer 18-year-old probation youth towards vocational programs.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Chief Probation Officer Powers stated the following:

- Other counties have been successful with gender specific programs and the hope is to implement a Los Angeles County based program modeled after these programs.
- Community resources will benefit vocational training programs. One of the ideas is for local businesses to provide job training for probation youth in the area.
- The DOJ involvement has helped bring the mental health treatment in Los Angeles County probation camps to a level that far exceeds the level of treatment in camps throughout California.
- Victims of sex trafficking is an emerging population and we are realizing the damage done to these victims by placing them in a criminal situation. Probation is spearheading the effort to train local law enforcement agencies to recognize when sex trafficking is occurring and how to deal with the victims using therapeutic methods instead of criminalizing their behavior.
- There currently is a significant increase in the staff to youth ratio that is more than double of the amount of staff from three years ago.
- The refurbishments at Camp Vernon Kilpatrick should be completed by mid-2014.
- Probation is working to improve the Aftercare Program to have a healthier transition for the youth back into the community by keeping the Probation Officer consistent throughout their treatment.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

7. Roundtable discussion regarding the integration of services for Probation and Foster Youth, and the prevention of “at-risk” youth in the foster care system from “crossing over” to the delinquency system.

Jerry Powers, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department  
Maryam Fatemi, Deputy Director, DCFS (11-5491)

**Chief Probation Officer Powers stated that the Probation system is not designed to deal with the placement youth or the youth that have “crossed over” from being a dependent of the child welfare system.**

**Maryam Fatemi reported that DCFS is using the following strategies for prevention of youth crossing over to the delinquency system:**

- **Utilizing multi-disciplinary teams when evaluating a child to ensure that his or her history and current situation are being reviewed by experts in that area.**
- **Offering diversion programs for at-risk youth and communicating with the agencies involved to ensure the youth is on track.**
- **Working with group homes to identify the possible causes to prevent the placement of youth in group homes that are at a higher risk for criminal activity.**
- **Establishing a policy to ensure that staff is aware of any minor offenses of the youth, including trancies. Staff must provide this information to management in order to address any issues with the case plan.**
- **DCFS Staff is working with Children’s Law Center Attorneys to coordinate with the Courts having the youth complete community service instead of being issued a monetary fine for an offense.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Fatemi stated there has been a 10% reduction in children that have entered the delinquent system. Additionally, there is a huge effort in the prevention of “cross over” youth and DCFS is making progress.**

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**Chief Probation Officer Powers reported on the reorganization of the Probation Department and informed the Commission that some of the Probation Department's Bureau Chiefs are being placed in each Supervisorial District and that such area Chief will be responsible for all matters involving Probation in that area. There will be high level restructuring of the Department that will acknowledge some of the structural issues the Department is facing.**

**V. WORKGROUP UPDATE**

8. Relative Caregivers Workgroup
- Patricia Curry, Commission Representative (12-1015)

**Item was not discussed.**

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Announcements**

9. Announcements for the meeting of March 5, 2012. (12-1019)

**There were none.**

**Matters Not Posted**

10. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-1020)

**There were no matters posted.**

**Public Comment**

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-1022)

**The following member of the public addressed the Commission: Danny Ramos.**

**Adjournment**

12. Adjournment for the meeting of March 5, 2012. (12-1023)

**The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 12:07 p.m.**